

# BRITAIN WILL ASK FRANCE TO EXPLAIN HER HOSTILE ATTITUDE.

Meantime She Is Hurriedly Mining and Torpedoing Her Harbors to Be Prepared for the Coming Crisis.

French Reserve Squadron May Soon Be Mobilized and Her War Ships Recalled from the Levant.

Chamberlain's Threat in His Leicester Speech Arouses French Indignation and Evokes Bitter Retorts.

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LONDON, Dec. 1.—The Journal correspondent has received authentic information from official sources that extensive preparations are being made at Portsmouth to protect the harbors of Great Britain. Submarine mining and planting of torpedoes is being done very hurriedly and very thoroughly.

These most significant operations, the Journal correspondent is informed, are being carried out with the view of asking France to explain her unfriendly attitude toward Great Britain.

## BRITAIN MOUNTS GUNS AT GIBRALTAR.

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Madrid, Dec. 1.—The Spaniards are watching closely the progress of the new works at Gibraltar. The British are engaged ceaselessly on many kinds of works and have succeeded in obtaining possession of property on all sides adjoining the fort territory.

Work on the Mole is carried out with great activity. On the rock itself most important works of fortification are in progress. Eight thousand men are employed. The stores of coal are immense, sufficient to supply the British squadron for several years.

At the southern point of the rock batteries are being constructed to contain four 110 ton guns.

The Spanish workmen formerly employed have been dismissed in fear that they may reveal what is going on.

Persons who acquire property within the limits of Gibraltar lose the right of proprietorship after a certain number of years. The term cannot be extended and the property passes to the State to be devoted to military purposes. The tendency of the British is to drive the civil population away from Gibraltar.

## FRANCE TO MOBILIZE HER RESERVE SQUADRON.

Paris, Dec. 1.—The Superior Council of the Navy has considered measures necessary for the mobilization of the reserve squadrons for defence in the Mediterranean in case of a sudden attack.

Secretary Chamberlain's covert menaces in his speech at Leicester yesterday have thoroughly aroused French indignation. The Liberte and Patrie ridicule his rhodomontade, and say that if the statesman's object was to sow dissension and animosity between the two nations he has thoroughly succeeded.

The Liberte takes the matter very seriously and declares that such provocation almost justifies any caricatures. It urges France to seek alliances in view of a certain eventuality in perhaps the near future.

The Journal urges the recall of Admiral Fournier's squadron from the Levant, in view of "eventualities which may result from the present anti-British campaign in France."

Admiral Fournier is on board the third-class cruiser Cosmao, at Constantinople, where the Sultan will formally receive him to-day. The rest of the French fleet awaits

# CHOATE AND CHAMBERLAIN HAD AUTHORITY TO SPEAK.

WASHINGTON, December 1.—An understanding exists between the United States, Great Britain and Germany. Its purpose is to secure the open door in China and to prevent French and Russian aggressions in various quarters of the world.

Mr. Choate's speech was delivered with the consent of the United States.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech was delivered with the understanding that the State Department would not repudiate any of his utterances.

It is true that Mr. Choate's speech is a violation of the specific instructions to American Ambassadors to refrain from talking politics in London. But, under the circumstances, no rebuke will be administered to him. Mr. Choate was addressing Americans and he was celebrating a national holiday.

It is also true that the relations between the United States and Great Britain are extremely friendly, but there is no formal written alliance, because such a document could not be kept secret and would ultimately have to be ratified by the Senate.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech is very gratifying, as it indicates the extreme friendliness of Great Britain at this time. But Mr. Chamberlain spoke with perhaps too much enthusiasm and positiveness, and it is questionable whether the facts justify the radical statements he has made.

Nevertheless, the State Department does not wish to contradict Mr. Chamberlain, and disclaims any intention of doing so.

The State Department, however, appreciates the obvious purpose Mr. Chamberlain had in making this speech, and there is no disposition on the part of this country to seek to efface any impression Mr. Chamberlain may strive to create.

The speeches made by Messrs. Choate and Chamberlain are entirely justified. The State Department knew Mr. Choate intended to make the speech he did, because some weeks ago he was specifically instructed not to talk, and he would not have been injudicious enough to have committed such a serious offense without warrant.

The State Department knew the kind of a speech Mr. Chamberlain intended to make, and agreed not to contradict anything he might say. A contradiction from the State Department would have resulted in the complete confusion of Mr. Chamberlain and would have made him the laughing stock of Europe, and naturally he is too astute to fall into any such fatal error.

It is understood that Mr. Chamberlain had a similar understanding with the German Foreign Office, or, perhaps, with the Kaiser himself, with whom he talked within the last week.

The purpose of the two speeches was, in effect, a warning to France and Russia that the aggressions they contemplate will not be tolerated by Great Britain, the United States and Germany, with Japan an active assistant at any time a demonstration of the combination's attitude is made necessary.

It was judicious that the significant utterances of Mr. Choate and Mr. Chamberlain should be made at this time, because it is believed that France is ready to seize Ceuta, opposite Gibraltar, the moment the time becomes propitious, while Russia's activity in Afghanistan and Persia will culminate in a grand coup, having for its object the securing of an outlet on the Persian Gulf ultimately.

Both of these countries, it is feared, might follow up successes in the quarters described by aggressions in China.

The speeches of Messrs. Choate and Chamberlain are of the highest importance as indicating the attitude of Great Britain, the United States and Germany in their friendly relations to each other and the hostility they feel toward these prospective aggressions in China, Persia and Afghanistan, and on the northern coast of Africa.

The speeches were not the careless utterance of two festive diplomats surprised into expressing their personal sentiments at a jolly dinner, but were the carefully arranged-for announcement of an international understanding of world-wide significance.

Unofficial intimations given to diplomats and official announcement calculated to create definite impressions have not been found sufficient to impress upon Russia and France that their policy must be one of "hands off." In spite of intimations, both countries, there is every reason to believe, have been diligently preparing for a demonstration likely to create a blaze throughout the world.

The State Department was almost embarrassed to-day. Secretary Hay declined to say a word for publication, but the State Department made it clear that Mr. Choate would not be rebuked and that Mr. Chamberlain would not be contradicted, although contending that the alliance referred to so frequently is to be regarded as a natural and sentimental business-like understanding uncommitted to paper.

There is the best of reason for the statement that the State Department knew what Mr. Choate intended to say, because Mr. Choate had been instructed some weeks ago not to talk politics as a supplemental order to the one existent for several years. Mr. Choate would not have offended the Administration by talking injudiciously.

Similarly, there is the best of reason for the belief that the tenor of Mr. Chamberlain's remarks were understood and approved in this country.

The Administration is playing its diplomatic hand very shrewdly. It has an understanding with Great Britain and Germany to maintain the open door in China and to lend its support to those countries to oppose any aggressions by other countries calculated to injure the United States.

But the State Department must continually call attention to the distinction between a verbal understanding and an alliance which would be probably offensive to many Americans.

Several months ago Colonel Hay wrote a letter to Chairman Dick, of the Ohio State Committee, denying specifically that an alliance between the United States and Great Britain existed.

And the chief concern of the State Department is to maintain that attitude, so that political opposition to the agreement will not therefore be a club with which to smite McKinley. That is to say:

The United States is willing to participate in a threat against Russia and France. It desires these countries to understand that it stands with the other two Teutonic nations in international policy generally, while it wishes to convince Americans that there is no such thing as an entangling foreign alliance.

The British Ambassador had evidently been warned on this point, for when the Journal endeavored to secure an expression of opinion from the British authorities Mr. Max Mueller, second secretary at the Embassy, said:

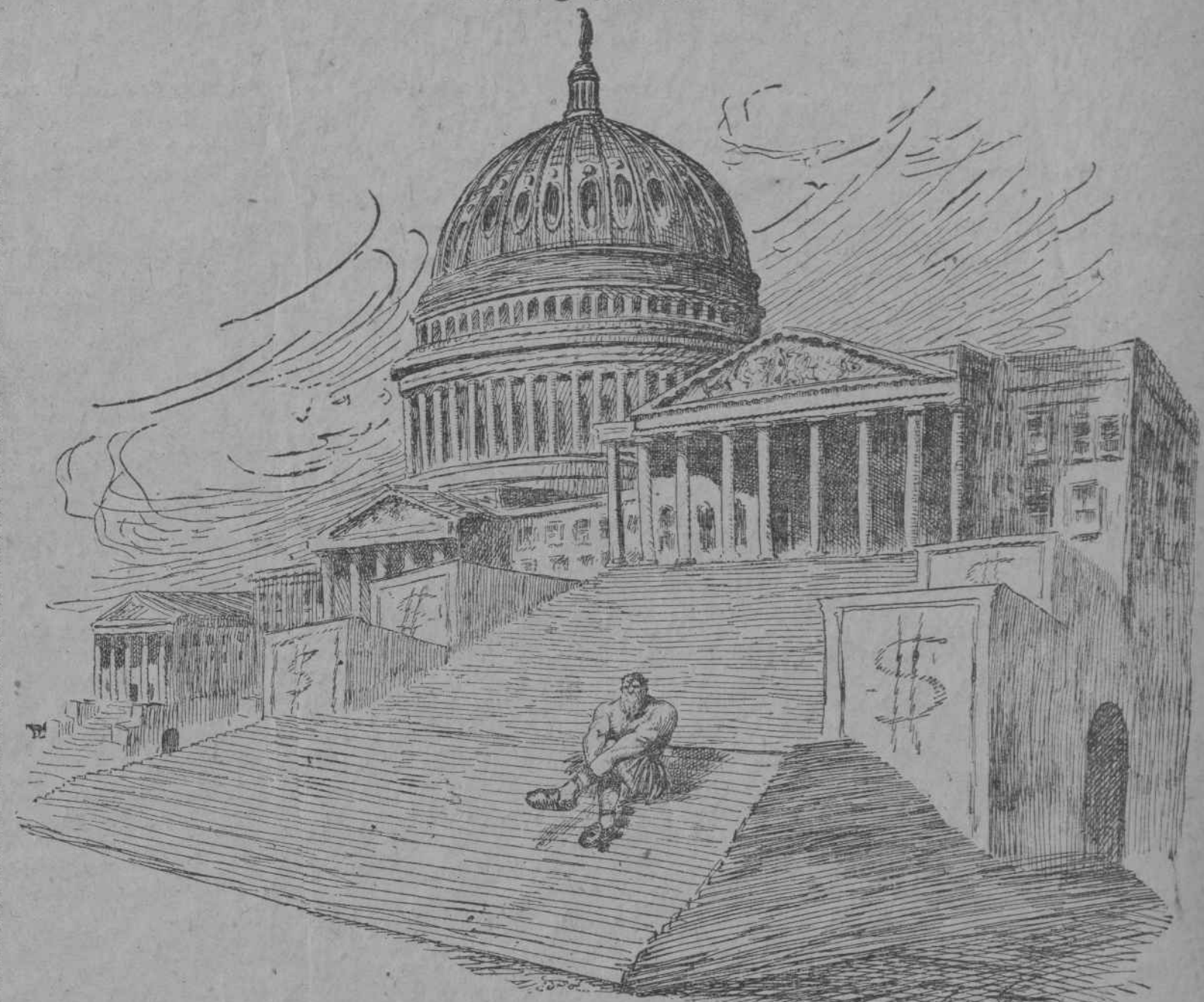
"Lord Pauncefote is out, but I know that he would decline to discuss this matter at all. It is useless to present it to him, because I know his attitude."

"I think it well to call attention, however, to the fact that Mr. Chamberlain did not state that there was an alliance, but that there was a friendly feeling or cordial union, or something of that kind."

Admiral Fournier at Smyrna.

London, Dec. 1.—The Paris correspondent of the Evening News telegraphs to his paper that there is reason to believe that Sir Edmund J. Monson, the British Ambassador to France, will shortly apply for a prolonged leave of absence as a protest against the attacks made by the French press on Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales.

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## AMERICAN OPINION ON THE NEW DREIBUND.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Several Senators and Congressmen were asked by the Journal to give their views of the Chamberlain and Choate speeches. Here are a few opinions:

Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama—No doubt it is very good and proper for the German and British empires to have a general understanding as to their aims and purposes. But I do not see how such an understanding affects our Government particularly one way or the other. I welcome the feeling of friendship and cordiality which is stated to exist between Germany and Great Britain, but I do not think that we should antagonize the Latin races. The United States has no concern in attempting to govern the world through a partnership with monarchies.

Senator J. B. Foraker of Ohio—A blind man ought to see that the great world trend of to-day is toward a trade alliance between the Anglo-Saxons and Teutons against the Slav and Latin races. It is only logical that such countries as Germany, Great Britain, the United States and France should be so closely allied, should have a friendly understanding. I do not believe that there is any secret alliance of any kind between Great Britain and the United States, nothing more than a friendly understanding in regard to the rights of the two countries, and it is nothing more than natural that Germany should desire to be party to such an understanding and that England and America would be glad to admit her.

Senator Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois—I don't believe in this country entering into any political alliance with any nation on earth. Of course I believe that we should establish all the friendly trade relations possible, but merely to the extent of a friendly understanding. Our trade in the East would make an understanding by which we should share the open door in China on equal terms with other nations very desirable. But such an understanding, I believe, should not extend to the point of an alliance, either understood or written, for in either form it would be equally binding upon us.

Robert R. Hitt, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs—Mr. Choate's remarks, as I understand them, have reference merely to the question of laying the Pacific cable. Apparently Mr. Choate advocates its extension to China. I do not believe that Mr. Choate would go so far as to intimate that the United States desires actual possession of territory in the Chinese Empire.

Representative S. P. Jack, of Pennsylvania—The only fair inference from Mr. Choate's remarks, it seems to me, is that he advocates the extension of our trade. Even the most ardent expansionists do not stand for the United States acquiring Chinese territory.

## FRENCH REFUSE TO CREDIT CHAMBERLAIN.

Paris, Dec. 1.—Some of the newspapers attach considerable importance to the utterances of Joseph Chamberlain at Leicester yesterday, and consider that they show that Emperor William's visit to England was partially political.

The majority, however, characterize the utterances of Mr. Chamberlain as empty threats, and regard the suggestion of an alliance between Great Britain, the United States and Germany as simply eccentric.

The Matin observes that Mr. Chamberlain alludes to the alliance as an accomplished fact and as being his work, and "sees on the opportunity to address threats to France, which leave us as unmoved as the famous prospect of a new triple alliance."

The Journal des Debats says it doubts the existence of an Anglo-German agreement, as Mr. Chamberlain asserted, and adds that it would be cruel and indecorous upon the part of Emperor William to accept the declarations of the Dutch in a visit to Queen if he had really signed what is tantamount to the death decree of the two Southern Kingdoms.

Emperor William's visit to Holland, it asserts, must mean that he has not taken such an irrevocable step.

## ENGLISH PRESS IS DIVIDED ON DREIBUND.

London, Dec. 1.—The afternoon newspapers all discuss Mr. Chamberlain's Anglo-Saxon-Teutonic alliance speech at Leicester yesterday. The St. James's Gazette says:

"Mr. Chamberlain simply expresses English public opinion, which has come to realize that with Germany and the United States we can work because with those powers we have a community of interests and sentiments, whereas with Russia and France we have not."

The Sun takes a similar favorable view of the suggested alliance.

The Evening Standard says Mr. Chamberlain referred to no alliance by treaties.

The Globe maintains it is impossible for Germany to give a quid pro quo for the responsibilities which would accrue to Great Britain by such an alliance.

The Pall Mall Gazette lays stress on the strong anti-German prejudice in Great Britain and declares, bluntly, that Mr. Chamberlain had better have kept silent.

The Westminster Gazette takes the same line, believing Mr. Chamberlain did not represent Government opinion, and pointing out how offensive the speech was toward France.

The full importance of the principle agreed upon is more comprehensible when contemplated in connection with the views now prevailing in the highest circles in Berlin, namely, that the coming era of the world's political development will involve co-operation in many matters between England, Germany and the United States.

The idea that the Kaiser would modify his policy in Europe where his obligation to the triple alliance and the hereditary friendship between Germany and Russia will be still upheld as heretofore was never entertained.

The conferences dealt with political questions affecting the interests of Germany and England directly.

Chamberlain's speech is much discussed

ests of the two countries were carefully discussed. It was agreed that in future whenever a conflict of interests or a difference of opinion should arise, every effort to avoid friction and to effect a readjustment should be made by friendly negotiation between the two powers themselves.

The object aimed at is strictly to prevent the danger of one or the other side immediately taking advantage of a difference of opinion in order to effect a reapportionment with another power, or a coalition of powers for the purpose of using pressure on the other.

By the method now agreed upon recourse will always first be had to amicable discussion. Efforts will be first made to avoid friction or tension.

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in the German press. In certain organs, a certain amount of the use of the word "alliance" but in political circles the purport of his word is fully understood from a standpoint I have endeavored to sketch above.

"The political understanding between Berlin and London is so perfect at the present juncture that even a written alliance would be superfluous."

"We have no right to go into the gutters to fish up the derelict press of any country and to hold it up to scorn, or as a motive of our policy. It is impossible that the Queen could be beset by such attacks, which only recoil on the attackers; and, whatever the degraded outburst may mean, it does not represent the best or highest opinion of France."

"We have been overready to flout other nations; and it is no wonder that Great Britain is unpopular abroad. I do trust that this diplomatic frankness will cease for these stinging words rankle long afterward, and it is not for statesmen to speak under the passing irritation of the moment."

ROSEBERY CRITICISES THE OFFICIAL THREAT.

London, Dec. 1.—Lord Rosebery, speaking at Edinburgh this evening, deprecated Mr. Chamberlain's reference to France in his speech at Leicester, and said:

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